

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN

SUBJECT: HINDU ARTICLE ON POSSIBLE US ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM MADRAS JAN 02 IS REPEATED

QUOTE

MADRAS 0001

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: HINDU ARTICLE ON POSSIBLE U.S. ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT ARTICLE BY EASWAR SAGAR (DATE LINED
WASHINGTON JANUARY 1) WHICH APPEARED ON FRONT PAGE
OF MADRAS HINDU MORNING JANUARY 2 UNDER 2-COLUMN HEADING
" 'STUDIES' IN PENTAGON ON ARMS SUPPLY TO PAK.":

"THERE ARE RECURRING REPORTS OF THE PRESENCE OF A
GROUP OF OFFICIALS IN THE PENTAGON AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT
MOSTLY AT THE MIDDLE AND LOWER ECHELONS WHO HAVE BEEN
URGING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO RESUME ARMS SUPPLIES TO
PAKISTAN.

FROM TIME TO TIME THEY ARE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE PREPARED
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A SERIES OF WHAT ARE NOW KNOWN AS 'STUDIES' WHOSE THEME

IS THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP PAKISTAN SATISFIED
WITH ARMS SALES AND NOT ARMS AID, ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. KISSINGER, IS SAID
TO BE AWARE OF THESE PRO-PAKISTANI STIRRINGS IN THE
'LOWER DECKS' OF THE TWO DEPARTMENTS, BUT SO FAR HE
IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PREVENTING THESE
STUDIES FROM TRAVELLING HIGHER AND REACHING PRESIDENT
FORD'S DESK. BUT KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES HERE SAY THAT
THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT DR. KISSINGER WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE
TO DO THIS, NOW THAT HIS PRESTIGE AND POWER IN THE ADMINISTRATION
IS NOT AS HIGH AS IT WAS, DUE TO A NUMBER OF CIRCUMSTANCES.
THE PENTAGON UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, MR. SCHLESINGER,
HAS NOT ALWAYS SEEN EYE-TO-EYE WITH DR. KISSINGER'S
STATE DEPARTMENT.

ALSO THOUGH SENIOR INDIAN OFFICIALS ARE ABLE TO HAVE
THEIR VIEWS HEARD IN MOST PARTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND

CONGRESS, THEY HAVE RELATIVELY LITTLE ACCESS TO THE SENIOR
POLICY-MAKERS IN THE PENTAGON--HISTORICALLY THIS AREA OF
THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALWAYS COME UNDER THE INFLUENCE
OF PAKISTAN.

IN ANY EVENT PAKISTAN WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO
MAKE ITS PLEA FOR NEW ARMS DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT FORD WHEN

MR. BHUTTO ARRIVES HERE ON HIS NEXT VISIT IN FEBRUARY--ONE
THEORY IS THAT MR. BHUTTO WILL TRY TO STAGE A CLAIM
FOR U.S. ARMS BY PERSUADING
THE MILITARY EXPERTS HERE
THAT PAKISTAN IS VITAL TO THE U.S. GLOBAL PLANS, LYING
AS IT DOES AT THE EASTERN EXTREMITY OF CENTO.

OFFICIAL U.S. POLICY, MEANWHILE, CONTINUES TO BE
CIRCUMSCRIBED BY ITS FREQUENTLY REITERATED PUBLIC STATEMENTS,
THAT THE U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF STARTING AN ARMS RACE
IN THE SUBCONTINENT, BUT THAT AT THE SAME TIME ITS ARMS
POLICY IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION IS UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW--
A PHRASE WHICH SEEMS CALCULATED TO KEEP INDIA ON TENTERHOOKS,
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WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RAISING VAGUE EXPECTATIONS IN
PAKISTAN.

WHAT INDIA IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE FLOW OF
U.S. ARMS TO SOME OF THE PERSIAN GULF STATES, WHICH MAY
TRANSFER THEM TO PAKISTAN--THOUGH INDIA HAS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED
THIS FEAR TO THE U.S., THE LATTER SEEMS MORE CONCERNED
ABOUT THEIR BEING USED IN AN ARAB WAR AGAINST ISRAEL.

SENIOR INDIAN OFFICIALS GENERALLY FEEL THAT THE
ASSURANCE DR. KISSINGER GAVE TO INDIA WHILE IN DELHI,
INCOMPLETE THOUGH THEY WERE IN SCOPE, ARE GENUINE AND
SERIOUS. BUT THEY DO NOT ALTOGETHER RULE OUT
SCENARIO
WHERE THE U.S. MAY BEGIN RESUPPLYING PAKISTAN WITH ARMS.

'IF THAT EVER HAPPENS, THEN WE CAN KISS GOODBYE
TO THE PROSPECT OF INDO-U.S. RAPPROCHEMENTS', SAYS
ONE COMPETENT SOURCE. SIGNED EAVES

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